

6.—‘DRAG MARKS’ MADE BY THE KYANG  
(*EQUUS HEMIONUS*).

The Kyang or Tibetan Wild Ass is common and abundant in the neighbourhood of the lakes Mānasarōwar and Rākhas Tāl in Western Tibet. On a recent visit (June-July 1945) I met with it everywhere on the Barkha Plain (ca 15,000 ft. elevation) in troops of 5 or 6, and large herds of over 100 animals. On the bare steppe they frequented I was constantly coming upon curious drag-marks—irregular wavy or meandering lines 2 to 2½ in. wide and 10, 20 or up to 30 yards long, looking exactly like those left by a frisky cow that has a pole or faggot tied to its neck with the loose end trailing on the ground between its forelegs.

There seems no doubt that these marks were produced by the Kyang; exactly how or why is the mystery. The Tibetan yakman explained that they were made by a stallion dragging one of his hoofs along, but could give no reason or say under what circumstances it was done, so all I remarked in my diary at the time was ‘Why is the ass *such* an ass?’

It would be interesting to know if something has been observed in the habits of the Kyang to suggest the real or probable explanation.

33 PALI HILL, BANDRA,  
BOMBAY, 20.

SÁLIM ALI.

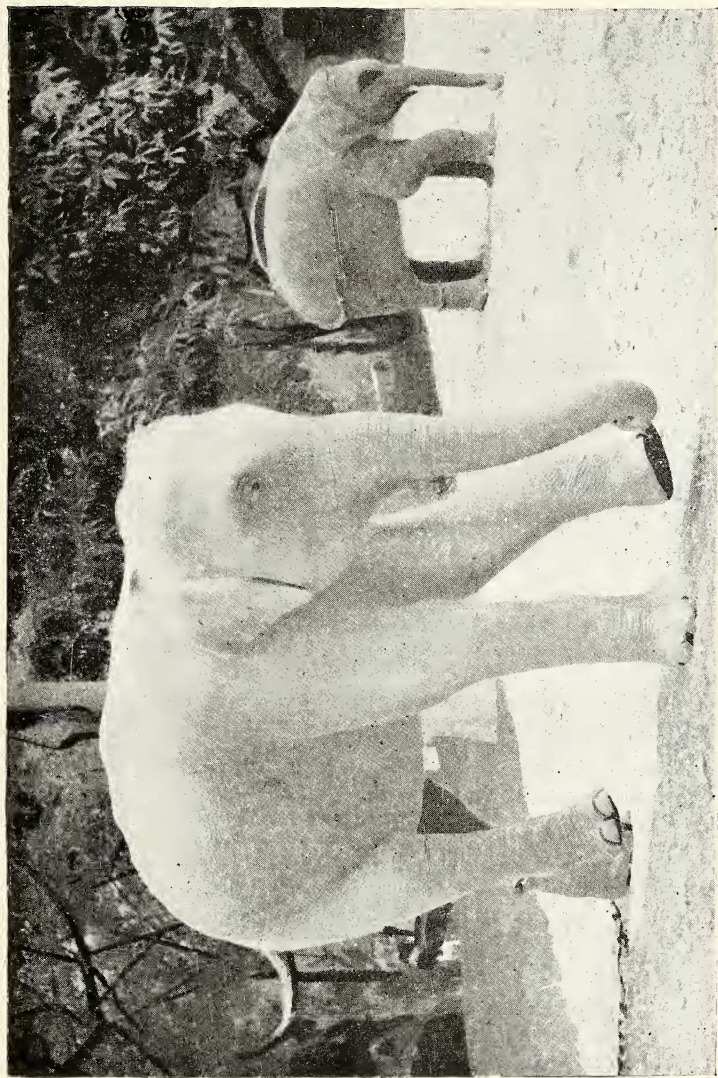
7.—AN ALBINO ELEPHANT FROM THE TRAVANCORE  
FORESTS.

(*With a plate*)

A cow elephant, captured from the Travancore forests in April 1945, has aroused much interest on account of its colour and other attributes of a white elephant; and it may quite possibly be the first time that an elephant having the characteristics of either partial or complete albinism is observed in India.

This elephant, having a height of 5 ft. 11 in. at the shoulder and whose age is estimated to be 10 years, was caught in a pit at Karippanthode, about 13 miles from Koni, the headquarters of the Central Forest Division. Rao Bahadur T. V. Venkiteswara Iyer, Conservator of Forests, Travancore, examined the animal and finding that it compared favourably with the Siamese White Elephants she has been brought over to the Trivandrum Zoological Gardens for exhibition.

Maheswari, by which name she has since been known, has a light pink skin with white hairs except at the tip of the tail, and pearl eyes. The white hairs on the head are prominent and in spite of them, the light pink background of the skin, gives the elephant a pinkish gray colour. The usual black colour of elephants is nowhere visible on its body. The mouth and palate are also light pink. There are, as usual in ordinary elephants, eighteen toes, four on each forefoot and four on each hind limb, but the toe-nails are



An Albino Indian Elephant from Travancore.